

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**INTERIM STANDARD  
SILVOPASTURE MANAGEMENT  
(Acres)**

**CODE 792**



**DEFINITION**

To facilitate the production and controlled harvest of forages and trees that are grown in combination.

**PURPOSES**

- To provide forage for livestock in combination with production of forests products.
- Maintain the health and vigor of forage crops and trees.
- Maintain food, cover, and shelter for animals of concern.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice may be applied on any area that is suitable for the desired plants.

**CRITERIA**

Trees will be thinned as needed to maintain a percent canopy range that will allow for sustained forage production. Pruning may be necessary to improve forest product quality and reduce canopy cover. See Tree/Shrub Pruning Standard 660.



Silvopastures will not be grazed until the terminal bud of conifer trees is above the potential browsing height of livestock.

Mechanical forage harvest (haymaking, cutting silage, etc) is an alternative for utilization of the forages. See Forage Harvest Management Standard 511.

For efficient utilization of forages by grazing animals, "Prescribed Grazing", Standard 528A should be implemented.

Tree growth in a silvopasture system will be enhanced by fertilization of the forage species. See Nutrient Management Standard 590, and/or Waste Utilization Standard 633.

Location and distribution of facilities for water, minerals, or supplemental feed should be such that livestock are not encouraged to overutilize areas of silvopasture.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

Temporary alternative use of forage crop (hay, silage, etc) is desirable until the average height of the terminal bud exceeds the browsing height of livestock.

When grazed, a prescribed grazing plan must be followed (See NRCS Prescribed Grazing Standard 528A). Failure to maintain adequate forage for livestock can result in excessive tree loss.

When applying nutrients, follow applicable state and local laws and regulations and NRCS practice standards for Nutrient Management (590) and/or Waste Utilization (633).

When using pesticides to facilitate management of silvopasture, follow label recommendations and NRCS Pest Management Standard 685.

### **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Operation and maintenance requirements are not applicable for this practice.

### **REFERENCES**

Dr. Terry Clason, Louisiana State University  
The Agroforestry Center